

Mini Fastnet

17 au 29 juin

Une organisation Winches Club Douarnenez
à suivre sur winchesclub.com/map & winchesclub.com/mini

2013 TROPHÉE MARIE AGNES PERON

10 au 15 juin

Press Release 24th June 2013

Night-round on the Channel

Ten hours into the race, and the front-runners of the Mini Fastnet are already out in the Channel. The Italian-French duo Pedote/Bourguès (Prysmian) has taken the lead in the Prototype fleet, while 'the pair from Finistère' Cloarec/Mahé (Lomig) is leading the Production boats. It'll be a calm night as far as the weather's concerned, but not so calm for the competitors who will need to contend with the maritime traffic and whatever the winds might throw at them.

From 6am, the 110 sailors involved in the 2013 Mini Fastnet started leave the pontoons of the Winches Club and, at precisely 8am, they headed out into the wild blue yonder under clear skies. With a 15-knot north-westerly in Douarnenez Bay and 17 knots out at sea, the competitors soon pulled away from the Breton coast, helped by the currents.

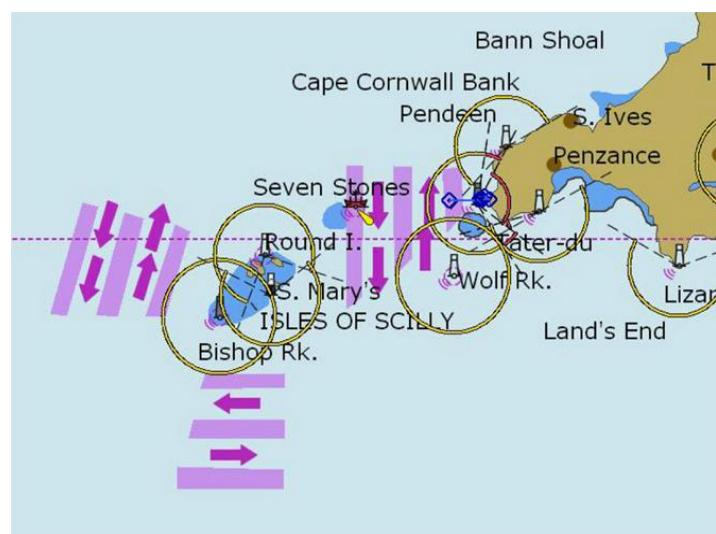
In the Prototypes, a group of four boats has already managed to break free. At the head of the fleet – although they're sailing close-hauled and in moderate downwind conditions: the Prysmian with Giancarlo Pedote and Laurent Bourguès. Hot on their heels are two strong-arm pairs going nose-to-nose: Maslard/Marette (Groupe Sefico) and Gahinet/Mouly (Watever - Nautipark). Just behind them, less than one nautical mile from the front-runners, there's Jorg Riechers/Pierre Brasseur (Mare).

The rest of the pack is a little distance behind, a shade slower but snapping at their wake... For the moment, the last Prototype is trailing at about one hour's distance.

In the Production boats, the front-runners are a little more grouped together but four boats have managed to gain a slight lead. Out in front are Damien Cloarec/Gildas Mahé (Lomig), then not far behind, the female duo of Mettraux/Joschke (Teamwork). Davy Beudart/Simon Koster (GO4IT) and Antoine Guillou/Julien Marcelet (Région Nord Pas de Calais) complete the line-up of the four leaders. The head of the pack is only half a nautical mile away...

Wolf Rock calls for neat navigation

The whole of the Mini Fastnet fleet had started crossing the Channel by the middle of the afternoon in a weakening wind. There won't be many great strategic options to choose from when it comes to negotiating their way around Wolf Rock off the western coast of England. Sailing close-hauled, the teams will have to play on their positions in regard to their competitors, and also use the variations in the wind.



And, above all, as they approach the Scilly Isles, they'll have to carefully anticipate how they're going to navigate around the Traffic Separation Systems (set up in areas of intense maritime traffic) as getting even the tip of their boat anywhere near these forbidden zones could lead to disqualification.

IMAGE: maritime traffic zones and the Traffic Separation Systems off the western coast of England.

The Mini Fastnet: a few facts

Mini Fastnet 28th Edition

The Race (c.700 nautical miles): Douarnenez - Chenal du Four - Wolf Rock - Phare du Fastnet - Douarnenez

Saturday 22nd June	Prologue
Sunday 23rd June	Start
Saturday 29th June	Prize-giving
Race Director	Denis Hugues

Registered as of 19th May

56 pairs, of whom 26 are in Prototypes and 30 in Production Boats

List of competitors: www.winchesclub.com/minis650/fastnet650/FR-152.htm

Follow the race:

www.facebook.com/groups/34793611189/?fref=ts

<https://twitter.com/MiniFastnet>

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